

Craigleith / Blackhall Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 23 March 2026 at Blackhall St Columba's Church

Present - Community Council - Stuart Pinkerton (Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary), Grant Roger (Treasurer), Duncan Osler, Martin Riddell, Peter May, Jim McLennan, Russell Murdoch, Darlene Jeffrey; Inverleith Ward Councillors Hal Osler, Max Mitchell, Vicky Nicolson, Murrayfield Ward Councillor Alan Beal.

In attendance - 6 members of the local community

Apologies - James Burr

Minutes of 16 February - Minutes approved.

Matters arising - Bowling Club trees -Councillor Hal Osler said that the trees adjacent to the site - owned by Edinburgh Council - were shading parts of the bowling green and required selective pruning.

Police Report - PC Colin Cursiter provided the following written report :

Call volume:

Year-on-year, call volume for this month's report has reduced slightly.

Trends:

We have been made aware of an increase in fraudulent notes in circulation. Please be vigilant when tendering and receiving cash. Look out for the hologram in the bottom corner of the note, the coating peeling off, and words on the notes such as 'PROP ONLY'.

There have been numerous reports of Pedlars in the area. If unknown persons attend at your door, use your door chain (if available) and ask to see their Pedlars Certificate on every occasion. Certificates issued by Police Scotland are A4 in size, stamped and dated, showing the pedlars details including a photo, certificate number and nature of the wares they are allowed to sell.

We have seen several public nuisance calls around Telford Road/Craigleith Retail Park. Please report any instances of this where possible to allow for directed patrols to take place.

Sexual exposure incident reported in vicinity of Crewe Road South, this is still being investigated with the suspect having potentially been identified.

There have been a number of calls received relating to acquisitive crime. This has the potential to increase as the weather improves and people may leave windows/doors ajar. Please be vigilant, keep valuables hidden and/or locked away when possible.

Notable incidents/pieces of work:

Nothing of note.

What your Community Team have been involved in:

We unfortunately haven't had a full staffing complement in the Inverleith Ward so have limited update on what we have been involved in. We have been abstracted to other parts of Edinburgh and further afield in Scotland for various events.

In recent days we have conducted speed checks, with a number of drivers given corrective advice.

What is planned for the coming month:

We have further speed checks planned, and hope to look at organising bike marking events as we move into the nicer weather.

It was noted that missing from the report was recent bike thefts from sheds in Gardner Road.

Community Council Matters

E-scooters / e-bikes

Russell Murdoch raised the issue of e-scooters and e-bikes being a danger to pedestrians because of their excessive speed. The problem had been experienced on both Roseburn Path and Craigleith Drive.

Councillor Hal Osler commented that the police had been trained in the use of quad bikes to be used to monitor paths but she had not seen them used recently. The discussion also noted that e-scooters and e-bikes are currently controlled through UK wide legislation which allows purchase but restrictions on their use. The Scottish Government is seeking devolved powers on this matter.

It was noted that speed limiters on scooters and bikes can be removed through the use of APPs. Modifying speed limiters so that bikes become self propellent however makes them legally the equivalent of a motor bike and the owners could receive points on their driving licence for such changes.

Other points raised : concern about cyclists with no lights and dressed in black clothing;
hire bikes - "abandoned" on build outs on Orchard Road and elsewhere in the community council area; many blown over or knocked over.

Craigleith Drive Tunnel - improvement works to aid pedestrian safety will take place 30 March - 17 April.

Ward Councillor Reports -

Councillor Hal Osler reported on :-

City Council budget - the 4% increase includes more moneys for white lining roads; additional funding at Blackhall Primary School for playground improvements;

Blackhall St Columba's Church - local residents had expressed concern about parking blocking drives and Councillor Osler reminded everybody to be good neighbours;

Money up to £30k is to be made available to all wards to be determined by local interests.

Councillor Vicky Nicolson reported on :-

Ravelston Park - old information had resulted in problems with bin emptying;

Hillhouse Road - potholes (and also wider problem of poor roads); in the discussion about the roads, Hal advised that Edinburghs road index had improved which

meant the roads were getting better. She was not sure what areas has been improved;

hustings - to be held at Drylaw on 30 March;

Craigleith Hill Avenue flooding problems adjacent to Western General Hospital - good progress is being made in discussion with NHS Lothian.

Councillor Alan Beal reported on :-

The resurfacing of Ellersly Road had coincided with other road works in the area leading to long queues and delays.

Councillor Max Mitchell reported on :-

Traffic volumes on Craigleith Road have now returned to the pre-pandemic levels for the first time ; there are local concerns about the adequacy of safe crossings and a survey is to be undertaken of footfall and vehicle volumes.

Orchard Drive pedestrian build out Queensferry Road - despite the measures already taken, some motorists are still crossing the pedestrian build out. Officers will look again at whether additional measures are required.

AOCB - progress on Blackhall Mosque parking was requested. Councillor Osler said that following consultation on the draft TRO, the next stage would be to report back to Committee with implementation possibly by end of 2026.

CPZ Blinkbonny area - the findings of the TRO for B5/B4 (which covers the Blinkbonny area) is going to the June TEC committee for final review.

Consultation on restrictions on Pennywell Road could have a wider impact on the community.

Noted that forthcoming visit to Scotland by US politicians in April could require local officers to support policing of the event.

Next meeting - to be held on 20 April 2026. The main agenda item will be the forthcoming consultation on the permanent replacement for Blackhall Library.

Alan Denham

Secretary

Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council

31 March 2026

